



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

April 12, 2011

10:00 AM

RI Department of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Avenue

Building 73, 1st Floor Conference Room, Pastore Complex

Cranston, Rhode Island

Minutes

Call to Order/ Attendance—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
Director J. David Smith
Edward Johnson
Eileen Warburton
Alysia Mihalakos
Dawn Lewis
Vincent Marzullo
Lori Needham
Paul Stasiuk
Lori Adamo
Jeff Stevens
Peter Popko
Joseph McCooey
John Shealy
James Ball
Robert Seltzer
Alan Seitz
Larry Grimaldi
Peter Gaynor
Liz McDonald
Brian Pires
Robert Leach

Steven Preston
Peter Ginaitt
Joavin Smith
Susan Earley
Verne Gifford
James F. Vierra
Akosua Mensah
Vladimir Ibarra

J. David Smith Director RIEMA

Director Smith called the group to order and explained that the Lt. Governor was at T. F. Green Airport at the homecoming of fallen National Guard Specialist Dennis Poulin.

The Director discussed the budget ramifications of a possible federal government shutdown and how it would affect RIEMA. The continuing resolution passed in Congress would enable operations to continue until the budget is finalized. Most programs are level funded and a worst-case scenario would be a 15% cut to Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).

The Director congratulated Nick Logothets on his outstanding contributions to the council. Mr. Logothets retired on March 25th from the Rhode Island Chapter of the Red Cross, Elizabeth McDonald will be the new contact person at the agency.

The Director highlighted Congressman Langevin's leading efforts in Cyber Security and the successful Symposium held at URI. The event was very well attended and the Keynote was General Keith B. Alexander, Director of the National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service.

The Director went on to discuss some of the upcoming RIEMA sponsored activities including:

1. On Wednesday, April, 13th 2011 a building collapse simulation will be held at Camp Fogarty. There are two sessions available for those interested.
2. On April 16th and 17th Serve RI and the Pawtuxet River Authority will team up to clean the Pawtuxet River.
3. On Wednesday April, 20th 2011 RIEMA is hosting a fire training at the Radisson.
4. On Tuesday May, 31st 2011 RIEMA will host the Hurricane Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This year's theme is "Rebuilding a Stronger Rhode Island" which will provide vast information on building codes and strategies going forward. Also, the State Building Commissioners' Office is sponsoring a training program for second responders, focusing on getting people back into their buildings as soon as possible after a trauma.

Approval of the minutes from February 8, 2011

The minutes from the February 8 meeting were unanimously approved.

Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports

A. *Interoperability Communications Committee*— Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair

ICC has been working more with the region than ever before. The City of Providence has presented their Standard Operating Procedures. They put together a great proposal that provides some of the detail that we have all been looking for to continue to participate in other modes of interoperability. The ICC is looking at all types of communication strategies so there is not duplication of efforts. Some ongoing challenges have been related to training. However, there is a training scheduled on April 19th for the subcommittee.

Chief Seltzer commented that Motorola needed to provide more support to engage the community and enhance education. Director Smith commented that once the training improves this aspect will improve as well.

B. *Hospital Preparedness Working Group*— Alysia Mihalakos, DOH/Dawn Lewis, HARI

Ms. Mihalakos, began by speaking about two grants that might be receiving an 11% cut that will impact their ability to support entities. Ms. Mihalakos, also spoke about the CDC's Public Health Cooperative agreement and hoped for a better alignment.

Salmonella outbreak: the effort has been “successful” with three silos working together to make a unified effort. Public information has been utilized well and as of today, there were reported seventy cases and two deaths. Furthermore, the outbreak brought up the diminished level of food inspectors which was due to budget cuts to the program.

Lastly, she told the council about a full evacuation exercise that took place at Women and Infants Hospital. It was clear that resources are limited when moving infants, and HEALTH will be working with regional partners to develop an evacuation plan that takes into account the resources available within the region.

Director Smith commented that the “Universal Access” shelter issue is a hot topic around the country as there is a move to shift the paradigm to full integration to allow all individuals regardless of their disabilities functional or access needs, access to community shelters. In fact, there was a case in California that was ruled on that requires integration of all shelters.

C. *Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group*— Steve Preston, Woonsocket FD

The committee continues to meet monthly and has integrated collaboration with the Hospital Association. The group completed the K9 USSR Squad decontamination of domestic animals. They are scheduling a testing in September or October. They are also working with Haz Mat out of state to fulfill requirements.

D. *Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group*—Susan Earley, BHDDH

The group is participating in the reorganization of the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) ESF 6 Mass Care, ESF 8 Health and Medical Services, and ESF 10 Environmental Protection and Hazardous Materials. They are also coming into training season for community health centers and providers. They informed the council that CCP grant is coming to close May 9th. The RI Hope website will stay to assist long term recovery group.

E. *Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council*—Vincent Marzullo

The subcommittee continues to recruit for the RISDT and membership is now at 51 with representation from every county in the State.

Training: SRI continues to implement rigorous training schedule for RISCDDT. Opened up the training to other disaster volunteers such as those from PEMA and RIDART. Also, SRI offered a CERT course – 31 hours of training. The training began on February 8, and ran weekly through March 31. CERT training culminated in a CERT Rodeo, an all-day practicum held at the RIDMAT facility in West Greenwich on April 9. The upcoming scheduled training includes CPR/First Aid, All Hazards, Volunteers Response in Hurricanes and Floods, MEDS PODS and Chainsaw Operation. Shelter Operations through Red Cross is in the process of being scheduled.

Volunteer recruitment: SRI produced a radio PSA with RIEMA and the RI Broadcasters Association (15, 20, 30, 60 second spots). The PSA started airing on all or RIBA's 28 member stations on April 1 and will run for three months through June.

Service Project. Serving RI Week will take place on April9-April17 and three large service projects are scheduled. SRI has recruited over 500 volunteers for these events. On April 16, SRI is partnering with OSEEC and the Pawtuxet River Authority on the third annual clean up of the Robert William Park Ponds. On 16th and 17th, SRI is partnering with the Pawtuxet River Authority on flood recovery river cleanup projects at two sites in Warwick.

Disaster Long Term Recovery Group: SRI continues to be an active participant in the RIDLTRG. Members of the RISCDDT cleaned one flood-damaged house this winter. SRI is working with the group to identify additional properties for the team to clean out in order to divert as much funding as possible from the Flood Recovery Fund to the reconstruction projects.

Volunteer Liability: SRI has been working with the Lt. Governor's office, RIEMA, FEMA, DMATA/MRC, RI Center for Law and Public Policy and community partners to gain an understanding of liability coverage for volunteers in their roles as responders during or after an emergency. It appears that volunteers will be covered

under state and federal law. According to the RI Disaster Volunteer Law, Rhode Island Title 30 Ch. 30 Section 30-15-15, SRI can likely deploy trained and credentialed volunteers, but this would require a mission assignment from RIEMA that would allow for these volunteers to be included in state liability laws, following a similar process to DMAT/MRC. Municipal volunteers are not eligible for coverage under this statute.

Criminal Background Checks SRI continued to process disaster volunteer BCI checks at no charge through the RI Attorney General's office through January 2011 when the RI Attorney General's Office changed its policy. BCI's are no longer being done for free for nonprofits.

F. *Law Enforcement Working Group*— Lt. James Manni, RISP

Lt. Manni, was unable to attend the meeting as he was conducting training for the WMD Team. About 50 participants took part in the training.

G. *Port Security*—Captain Verne Gifford, USCG

Captain Verne Gifford discussed the upcoming hurricane season. On August 2 and 3 2011, The Exxon-Mobil Pipeline Company will be sponsoring a full-scale PREP exercise. The exercise will test local, state, federal and national entities in responding to a "worst- most probable" oil spill at the East Providence terminal. Involved in the planning of the exercise are the Coast Guard, US EPA, NOAA, RI DEM, RI EMA, East Providence Police and Fire Departments, Providence Police and Fire Departments, and PEMA. Exxon-Mobil's North American Regional Response Team (NARRT) is expected to have over 60 members of the team participate in the exercise. The first day of the exercise will involve the standup of the local emergency response organization. The second day will see the full integration of the NARRT.

Port Security Assessment (PSA) During 11-22 July 2011, the USCG Port Security Evaluation Division from Washington will conduct a Port Security Assessment for certain critical infrastructure in the port areas of Rhode Island. The PSA program provides coordinated assessments of combined prevention, mitigation, and response capabilities of targeted critical infrastructure and key resources based on a terrorist operations approach. PSA teams are comprised of a combination of USCG personnel and contracted subject matter experts including former members of U.S. Special Operations Units (e.g. SEALs, Rangers).

Security Zones for Passenger Vessels: The Coast Guard proposes to establish 100-yard radius security zones encompassing all navigable waters around cruise ships that are moored, at any berth or at anchor within the Southeastern New England COTP Zone. This notice of proposed rulemaking also proposes to establish 200-yard radius, moving security zones encompassing all navigable waters around escorted cruise ships while underway in the navigable waters within the Southeastern New England COTP zone.

Small Vessel Security Threat: In January of 2011, the Department of Homeland Security released the Small Vessel Security Implementation Plan Report to the Public. This document outlines the process for implementing the Small Vessel Security Strategy and enhancing our overall security through strengthening our security net at the local level. The exploitation of small vessels continues to be a plausible threat for a potential attack in the maritime domain. DHS Small Vessel Security Website: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1199394950818.shtm

H. *Special Populations Working Group*—Steven Florio CDHH/Jeffrey Stevens, DOH

Mr. Jeff Stevens spoke on behalf of the group. He discussed the sheltering plan; they are still working to provide assistance to special populations in emergencies.

Long Term Care: this subcommittee has two new chairs Cathy Cranston and Jim Nyberg. They are working to develop templates to better understand facilities and their needs.

Steve Florio has introduced legislation, concerning access and liability, the bill number is H254. Lastly, Jeff spoke of the Special Needs Registry it needs a second generation web based application with better GIS integration and performance and linking with WebEOC. They're working with E911 to provide more dispatch information to first responders about individuals enrolled in the registry.

Transportation: members of the subcommittee have been participating in the RIEMA ESF 1 planning review team meetings.

I. *Urban Search and Rescue*—Chief Robert Seltzer, Central Coventry FD

The Chief spoke of working with the Hazmat DMAT group. The group will be using the frame work that they have already created, specifically related to hospitals. He also spoke of their monthly training and how the upcoming deployment might affect training.

J. *Transportation Security Working Group*—Brian Pires, ATAC/TSWG

May 5th marks a year of the transportation security initiative. RI has become a template for transportation security not only around the country but around the world. They have a very committed group of officers that are working with the group. They actually recently gave a presentation at the Naval War College to many countries.

K. *Mass Casualty*—Chief Robert Church, Portsmouth FD
No report.

I. **New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion**

The next meeting will take place on **May 10** at the RI Department of Labor and Training.

Robert Leach from the Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7 invited members to attend on Tuesday, May 10th a ""Deployment Safety and Hazard Training Seminar". Beginning at 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. held at Crowne Plaza. For more information about the even please contact Robert Leach via email at : rleacharchitects@gmail.com.